

The
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
OPERA COMPANY OF
Calgary

PRESENTS

THE
MIKADO

STAGE DIRECTOR
DON BOYES

JUBILEE
AUDITORIUM

APRIL

9TH - 10TH - 11TH



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The Mikado

The Characters

The Mikado of Japan	Blaine Chapman
Nanki-Poo	Jim Waddell
(his son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, in love with Yum-Yum)	
Ko-Ko	Gary Dean (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)
Pooh-Bah	Robert Norris (Lord High everything else)
Pish-Tush (a noble)	Jim Monroe
Yum-Yum ... { Three Sisters, } ..	Royce Kimler
Pitti-Sing ... { wards of Ko-Ko } ..	Lorna Hearst
Peep-Bo	Lynn Barber
Katisha	Carol Holder (an elderly lady in love with Nanki-Poo)
Dancer	Bonnie Case
Yah Yah Yah	Terry Moore
Chorus of School Girls, Nobles, Guards and Coolies	

Production Staff

Musical Director	Harry Pinchin
Stage Director	Don Boyes
Chorus Master	Elgar Carter
Scenery	The Musicians' & Actors' Club of Calgary, Don Boyes, Manager with special assistance from Workshop 14
Makeup	Makeup Unlimited
Lighting	Capt. F. M. Ray McLeod
Costumes	Mallabar Limited, Winnipeg
Wardrobe Mistress	Olive Wilson
Wardrobe Assistants	Shirley Corrigall, Lois Sales, Edna Carlton
Properties	Phyl Ellerbeck
Stage Manager	Dick Dennison
Assistant Stage Manager	Jim Eberle
House Manager	Cathy Cox
Stage Flowers	Betty Masser
Prompters	Cynthia Downe, Audrey Peach
Photographer	Vic LaVica
Rehearsal Pianist	Shirley Corrigall
Publicity	Bill deCarteret
Producer	Leslie deCarteret

Auditorium Staff

Stage	Al and Harry Merrells
Sound	Bob Swanson and Peiter Keogelberg
Lighting	Fred Zeller and Dave Wilson

OVERTURE

Act I

COURTYARD OF KO-KO'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

Introduction and Song	Chorus of Men
Song and Chorus	If you want to know who we are Nanki-Poo
Song	A wand'ring minstrel I Pish-Tush and Chorus
Song	Our great Mikado, virtuous man Pooh-Bah, with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush
Recit.	Young man, despair, likewise go to Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah
Chorus with Solo	And have I journey'd for a month Ko-Ko
Song	Behold the Lord High Executioner! Ko-Ko with Chorus of Men
Chorus of Girls	As some day it may happen Chorus of Girls
Trio	Comes a train of little ladies Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo and Pitti-Sing, with Chorus of Girls
Quartet	Three little maids from school are we Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah with Chorus of Girls
Duet	So please you, sir, we much regret Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo
Trio	Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush
	I am so proud
	Finale — With aspect stern and gloomy stride

Act 2

KO-KO's GARDEN

Song	Pitti-Sing and Chorus of Girls
Song	Braid the raven hair Yum-Yum
Madrigal	The sun whose rays are all ablaze Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush
Trio	Brightly dawns our wedding day Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko
	Here's a How-de-do! If I marry you
Entrance of Mikado and Katisha	Mikado and Katisha
Song	Mi-ya-sa-ma Mi-ya-sa-ma Mikado and Chorus
Trio and Chorus	A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Chorus
Glee	The criminal cried as he dropped him down Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Mikado
Duet	See how the fates their gifts allot Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko with Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah
Recit. and Song	The flowers that bloom in the spring Ko-Ko
Song	Alone and yet alive Ko-Ko
Duet	On a tree by a river, a Little Tom-tit Sang Willow, Tit-Willow, Tit-Willow Katisha and Ko-Ko
	There is beauty in the bellow of the blast
	FINALE ACT II — For he's gone and married Yum-Yum

The Orchestra

Conductor	Harry Pinchin
1st Violins	Mary Shortt
	Marguerite Kilik
2nd Violins	Bernice Nep
	Scot Duguid
Viola	John Bach
Cello	Linda Boellaard
Bass	Eric Whiteside
Flute	Werner Van Zweeden
Oboe	Jack Tillmans
Clarinet	William Thcmas
Bassoon	Brian Marsh
French Horn	Harriet Foltinek
Trumpets	Frank Simpson
Trombone	Jack Mirtle
Percussion	Jack Pearce
	Gus Pfiffig

The Chorus

★ Terry Barber	★ Terry Moore
★ Doug Beatty	★ Allan Roddis
★ Marguerite Beckstead	★ Allan Sales
★ John Carlton	★ Anthony Simi
★ Pamela Cooper	★ Bill Smith
★ Duncan Elliott	★ Katherine Tennis
★ Jean Gillespie	★ Joan Tilley
★ Marie Goshulak	★ Neville Tilley
★ Myron Goshulak	★ Jack Tyerman
★ Peggy Goth	★ Don Warne
★ Jack Haebers	★ Tom Whittemore
★ Barbara Huber	★ Bert Wilson
★ Mickie Kelly	★ Millie York
★ Margaret Mason	★ Neville York

OUR WARMEST THANKS TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO IN THIS BUSY, COMPETITIVE, COMMERCIAL WORLD TOOK THE TIME TO HELP IN SO MANY WAYS.

Story Synopsis

If you were Japanese, would you be irked by Gilbert's poking fun in this opera? Probably, but you'd be wrong! "The Mikado" is an English farce, to which the Japanese costumes, the make-up, fans, mincing steps and all the action lend an air of exotic charm. At least they do to our eyes.

We recognize the characters: Pooh-Bah, the village Panjandrum, who accepts any office and stretches his family tree because he needs to feel important; Pitti-Sing, whose lively spirits lead her into the middle of everything; Ko-Ko

(Continued)

whose name means "pickle" and who is always in one, but gets out without harm done; Katisha, that somewhat forlorn figure of fun, the desperate spinster; and the crashing bores in Ko-Ko's little "list." The Mikado enters on an authentic note, the chorus welcoming him with a melody based on an ancient Japanese war song. War, in the shape of the samurai sword, provided Gilbert with the idea for the plot.

Nanki-Poo, only son of the Mikado, in the guise of a wandering minstrel, has fled the court to escape the loving arms of elderly ugly Katisha and seek those of the delightful maiden Yum-Yum. He arrives in Titipu. So does Yum-Yum, with her train of little ladies. As always, the course of Gilbert and Sullivan true love cannot be allowed to run smoothly, but looks like an obstacle race. Nanki-Poo is handicapped by Yum-Yum's betrothal to her guardian, Ko-Ko the Lord High Executioner. Ko-Ko, who has never swung an axe, is ordered by the Mikado to have a victim in a month. The despairing Nanki-Poo agrees to be beheaded, as long as he can marry Yum-Yum — till then! So it is arranged. All rejoice, only to be interrupted by Katisha. She enters the race, claiming her perfumed lover, and help from the citizens because Nanki-Poo is the son of their . . . But they won't hear her out. She leaves alone, leaving the way clear for Nanki-Poo. Yum-Yum and her bridesmaids prepare for the wedding.

Now it is learned that under the law it is death to marry Nanki-Poo; his widow must be buried alive. Yum-Yum pulls back. The race is over. Nanki-Poo tells Ko-Ko to behead him. Ko-Ko, who couldn't harm a fly, cannot — and an idea strikes him. Won't an affidavit signed by a small army of civil servants (Pooh-Bah) do as well? The lovers are quietly married (offstage) by the Archbishop (Pooh-Bah).

The front runners are home — but not dry! Katisha returns, with the Mikado. The affidavit is presented by Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah and the execution described in affecting corroborative detail. Katisha reads the name of the victim: Nanki-Poo, the heir to the throne. Boiling oil will be the fate of those who encompassed his death! Only a sacrifice can save them now — Ko-Ko must marry Katisha. He woos her with a pitiful tale of a broken heart — she falls on his shoulders — and finding their tastes are as one (a passion for a flight of thunderbolts), they marry.

The race is won. Katisha pleads for mercy for them all, but the traitor Ko-Ko has deceived her. Ko-Ko explains Nanki-Poo's reappearance — alive, and married to Yum-Yum! — with a wild alibi (when the Mikado says a thing is to be done, it is as good as done, so why not say so). The Mikado accepts this balm to his ego, and Katisha her bargain, Ko-Ko.

From the first, "The Mikado" has been loved. Critics carp because they feel they must: the characters are lightly drawn, the music lacks depth, the "plot" is ridiculous. But nobody is here for the kind of emotional bath provided by immersion in another's tragedy, whether stage, operatic, or real. Sullivan's lilting melodies lose nothing by familiarity, and Gilbert's words are, as he said, "not without merit."

Relax, sit back and bask in bright nonsense and good humour.

—DEREK HOLDER

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We are proud to be a part of this production, having produced and supplied this program.